

"The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority should ban the American Freedom Defense Initiative (AFDI) advertisement. The AFDI is a nationally-recognized hate group, known for campaigns that incite religious and racial hatred against the Muslim American community. In its latest advertising campaign in the Washington DC area, the AFDI equates Muslims to "savages."

"I take hate speech very personally. During WWII, my family and I were interned with more than 120,000 other Japanese Americans. We experienced overwhelming racial discrimination, and hateful billboards and caricatures that equate Japanese Americans to savages were commonplace. We learn from history that hate speech and hysteria have dire consequences, the result of societal complacency, failed political leadership, and the lack of courage to stand up and speak out against hate."

"If we allow hate speech to penetrate public discourse and become normalized, we are creating an incredibly hostile and discriminatory environment for Muslim Americans. The AFDI extremists are hiding behind their constitutional right to free speech, only to spread hate and disseminate ads that only serve to heighten tension and incite violence between Muslims and non-Muslims."

"Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a staunch proponent of civil rights and the right to free speech. I am also an equally, unwavering opponent of hate speech and bullying perpetrated against all communities, regardless of creed, race, gender, sexuality, disability, country of origin, and immigration status. The AFDI ad is wrong and should not be tolerated."